

## Lions Club

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blind persons with problems, and purchased braille books and supplies. No project has been too big for the Lions to tackle.

Above and beyond not only the financial end, the biggest contribution, the Lions have made to the Sight Center has been in leadership. All three board presidents have been Lions—Lion Eddie Evans, Lion John Goerlich, and Lion William Marti. Throughout the years, Lions have dominated the Board of Directors of the Sight Center. The present Board is no exception. Of 15 board positions, 13 are presently filled by Lions members. Sight Center executive director Barry McEwen organized the Maumee Lions Club and has been an active Lion for over 10 years.

They have unselfishly given of their time and effort in guiding the Sight Center through the years, through financial ups and downs, and provided quality services to a wide variety of blind and visually impaired individuals.



Rehabilitation teachers from the Sight Center teach a class of visually impaired students who meet once a week at the Sight Center daily living and mobility skills. Above, two students learn how to make pizza.

**The Toledo Society For The Blind**  
Published semi-annually by the Toledo Society For The Blind, a Community Chest Agency.

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## New Faces

A hearty welcome to the following staff additions:

Ginger Martin, ACSW, was named coordinator of social services. Ginger, who has a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University in Detroit, has extensive work experience in individual, group, and family counseling.

\* \* \*

Gail Sheffield, who serves as a rehabilitation teacher, has master's degrees in rehabilitation teaching and home economics for the blind from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. She served her internship at the Minneapolis Society for the Blind last summer.

\* \* \*

Debra Bonde joined the Sight Center staff as secretary. Debra, a native of Palo Alto, California, came to Toledo last fall when her husband became associate pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Deb has been certified by the Library of Congress in Braille transcription.

\* \* \*

Valerie Diaz is working as a social work intern. She is a first-year graduate student in the school of social work at the University of Michigan. She will be working at the Sight Center on Thursdays and Fridays.

\* \* \*

Victoria Obee joined the staff as a rehabilitation counselor. Prior to her new appointment she was employed in the same capacity with the Toledo Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. Victoria obtained a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling at Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts.

\* \* \*

Robin Russell is serving a 10-week internship as a public relations coordinator. This Spring she will receive a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University, School of Journalism in the College of Business Administration. For the past year Robin has worked as a writer and photographer for THE KEY, Bowling Green's student newspaper. She also has been published in several area papers.

## Camp for Blind Pre-Schoolers Being Offered

For the second time, the Sight Center will be sponsoring a camp for pre-school blind children and their parents September 12, 13, and 14 at Camp Storer near Brooklyn, Michigan.

Parents will be given ideas in working and developing their children's abilities to function with little or no vision, selecting appropriate toys, interacting with their peers, and dealing with personal concerns about having a visually impaired child. This camp will be supported by donations.

If you have or know of someone who has a vision handicapped child age 0 to 6 years, please contact a social worker at the Sight Center, 241-1183, for further information.



(Top) Jane Hilkert was named Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for donating over 400 volunteer hours to the Sight Center during the past year. Presenting her award certificate at a luncheon for volunteers was Bill Marti, president of the Board of Trustees. (Bottom) Father Jack Logsdon, Frank Lininger, and Bob Murray were among the volunteers honored at the luncheon.

# the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind

1819 Canton Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43624  
419/241-1183



No. 7 Volume 10—May 1980

## Early Reminder for 1980 Greeting Card Program

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your gracious response to our 1979 Holiday Card Program. Once again, this program was most successful.

Because of your generous response, the Sight Center is able to continue with its extra-curricular activities like the summer camp program, family nights and the eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital.

Even though it is only Spring, the 1980 Christmas season will be upon us before we know it. To those of you who wish to have your holiday greeting cards ready for early mailing, the Sight Center will send three attractive card selections.

If desired, your cards may be imprinted with your name, but please allow \$5.00 extra per card selection for this service.

Should you choose to order cards, you will be neither charged nor billed for them. Instead, you are asked to make a contribution to the Sight Center. Anything over the amount you normally spend for holiday greeting cards is tax deductible.

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Blindness and loss of vision are now on the increase in the United States. If you know someone who suffers vision loss which normal glasses can no longer correct, contact the Sight Center, 241-1183, about available aids and appliances.

## A New World Opens Through "Talking Books"



Clara Beck of Napoleon, Ohio, enjoys listening to her talking book cassette player.



Napoleon resident Ronnie Harris places a talking book on the special record player distributed by the Sight Center.

Man has been recording his thoughts in book form for nearly 4,000 years. But for most of those years the contents remained closed to visually impaired and other physically handicapped persons.

Today the Sight Center's Talking Book program reaches over 1,700 visually impaired people in northwestern Ohio. Talking Books are simply books and magazines which have been put in recorded form, either on cassettes or records. And the service (sponsored by the Library of Congress) is free to qualifying persons, such as persons with visual impairment, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, and stroke patients.

Special recording machines are furnished by the Sight Center, according to Loretta Turner, Talking Book

Machine coordinator.

Here's how the service works. Upon request to the Sight Center, Mrs. Turner sends an application along with a selection pamphlet to the person interested. Applicants must be certified by a competent authority such as a physician, social worker, rehabilitation counselor,

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# Lions Club Involved Long Time With Sight Center



An unidentified young lady couldn't resist being on stage with the Cake Walkin' Jass Band at the 54th Annual Lions Club Christmas party for visually impaired persons. On hand for the event were Virginia Place and Paul Blank.

The involvement between the Sight Center and the Lions Club goes back a long, long way—in fact, to the beginning of the agency in 1924. Of the original board members, seven were Lions—Lion Edward Evans, President; Lion William Compte, Vice President; Lion C. A. Baldwin, Treasurer; Lion August Frank, Secretary; Lion Oscar Beier, Lion Holt Bullock, and Lion Arthur Zeigler were board members.

In 1925 Helen Keller addressed the

International Convention of Lions of the World assembled at Cedar Point, Ohio, to ask Lions to become knights of the blind and hearing impaired. The Lions unanimously accepted the project. It has been the organization's main thrust to this day.

In the early days, the Lions Club provided transportation for blind people to and from activities. This service continues right up to the present. Monthly, Lions Club members donate

their time, gasoline, and vehicles to take people from the Family Night activity to their homes on the third Wednesday of the month. Additionally, Lions Clubs provide money to provide cab fare for the ladies to attend the Happy Times Club the first Wednesday of every month and for people to attend the Progressive Club the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Through the years, the Lions Clubs have provided much, much more than transportation. They have provided money for eye surgery, eye glasses, and other medical attention for blind and visually impaired individuals. In 1966, the Lions Club was instrumental in establishing and co-sponsoring the Community Medical Eye Clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, in conjunction with St. Vincent Hospital and the Sight Center.

Prior to 1956, the Lions Club raised approximately \$112,000 to build the Sight Center building at the corner of Canton and Southard. Lion William Compte, of Compte Construction, utilized the money raised and built the building. (Unfortunately, the \$112,000 was not enough for the project and Lion Compte stood the loss himself.)

One of the largest projects implemented by the Lions Club for blind and visually impaired individuals in the community is the Annual Christmas Party. The 54th Annual Christmas Party was held in 1979 and 200 gift certificates were given to persons attending.

For over 32 years, the Lions Club has provided funds to the Society for the Blind in excess of \$5,000 per year. The Lions Club money supported the first few summer camps for the blind, paved the original parking lot which is now the floor of the sheltered workshop, purchased a copy machine, food mixers, 1974 Plymouth van, sophisticated electronic aids and devices for the blind and visually impaired, has cleaned the basement after flooding, purchased a new refrigerator and other food for equipment, provided food for blind school children to learn how to cook and live independently, provided movie projectors and screens, films on blindness and the prevention of blindness, provided white canes, etc. They have also conducted workshops for families of pre-school blind children, sponsored blind bowling leagues, helped individual

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## Talking Books

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nurse, or therapist to have at least one of the following:

1. inability to hold a book or turn pages;
2. extreme weakness or excessive fatigue;
3. blurred or double vision; or
4. any other physical limitation preventing the applicant from reading standard printed books.

Once the application is completed, Mrs. Turner sends by parcel post the talking book machine to the user. The machines differ from regular phonographs because speeds are 8, 16, and 33 rpm. No charge is made for the machine. According to specified selections, book records are received by mail from the Braille and Talking Book Department of the Cleveland Public Library.

Best sellers, poetry, classics, and

magazines are included in the thousands of books recorded by master storytellers.

"Talking Books open up a whole new world for many of our clients," Mrs. Turner says. "The machines and recorded books cannot be found in local bookstores."

Occasionally, she adds, a machine breaks down and must be sent back to the Sight Center. The Toledo Council of Telephone Pioneers (an employee service group of the Ohio Bell Telephone Company) makes all repairs.

The Sight Center is the only social service agency in northwest Ohio to provide this service. If you know someone or if you are visually or physically handicapped, why not open up a new world through talking books.

For more information, contact Mrs. Turner at the Center, 241-1183.

## Outlying Areas Hear About Center

Even though the Sight Center's area of service includes 21 counties in northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan, unfortunately many visually impaired residents outside the immediate area are unaware of the agency's existence.

In recognition of this fact, the Center has initiated an outreach program. Through public service announcements and community service talk shows, the Center hopes to create public awareness in outlying areas about its services.

As of this writing, executive director Barry McEwen (sometimes accompanied by a staff member) has been granted interviews with radio stations WONW-FM in Defiance, WIMA-FM in Lima, and WBNO-FM in Bryan. Other stations such as WNDH-FM in Napoleon and WHFD-FM in Archbold are airing the Center's public service announcements.

Our appreciation is extended to these stations for their fine cooperation in helping us create awareness through our outreach program.

## Something New "A Foot!"

Fundraising is an integral part of the operation of any non-profit organization. Through the years, the cultivation of financial resources has developed into a complex age of sophisticated organizational planning.

In line with this thinking, the Sight Center has something new "a foot." And that's the Foote System to help the agency with its fundraising needs. The Foote System is one of the oldest and largest fundraising firms in the nation.

"It offers a wide range of services designed to more fully realize the vast amount of support that exists in our community," reports Barry McEwen, Sight Center executive director. "In the last 56 years the Sight Center has never really asked for individual support. Now we need to do this."

Special programs offered by the Foote System include: direct mail

support; increased annual giving; capital acquisition; deferred giving; foundation and governmental grants; and developmental surveys, to name a few.

During the past half-century, the Foote System has acquired an in-depth understanding of organizations devoted to public service.

We look forward to working with the Foote System to implement a total development program.

Two-thirds of all eye injuries to children occur during play or sports—most often during unsupervised activity. Don't gamble with your children's eyesight by leaving them alone with potentially dangerous objects.



## The Sign Post

Donations are now being accepted for camper sponsorship to Camp Hemlock near Hillsdale, Michigan. Camp week has been set for August 17-23. Each participant is charged \$30 for the week which includes transportation. The actual cost per camper is \$130. To sponsor a camper, call 241-1183.

Several staff persons will participate in the Helen Keller Centennial Congress to be held June 23-28 at Boston. The Congress, coordinated by the American Foundation for the Blind, will be of interest to professionals in many areas in addition to those from the field of blindness. Topics to be covered include: child development, education, rehabilitation, aging, psychology, ophthalmology, optometry, health care, and administration. Nationally known speakers will be on hand to field questions.

For the second year in a row, the Toledo Telephone Pioneers sponsored an Easter egg hunt for blind children. Dana Corporation opened its grounds to visually impaired children who searched for eggs by listening for birdlike chirps. The chirping sounds were battery powered noisemakers that Telephone Pioneer members inserted into plastic eggs sold with women's pantyhose.

Congressman "Pete" Stark of California has introduced HR 6027 to provide that Federal Reserve notes be printed in a manner which enables an individual who is blind to determine the denomination of each such note. The bill calls for U.S. currency in the denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 to have corners trimmed in different ways so that the value of each piece of currency can be recognized by touching the corners. It has already been determined that this type of alteration of currency is practical and will not require modifications of currency changing or counting machinery. For a copy of the bill or additional information, contact Rich Foster, Office of Hon. Fortney H. Stark, Jr., 1034 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515.